Daily Report

Latin America

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Cuba

Rodriguez Closes Minrex Assessment Meeting

FL300301 Havana Television Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 30 Mar 88

[Text] Carlos Rafael Rodriguez, vice president of the Councils of State and Ministers, made the closing remarks today at the Foreign Ministry's [Minrex] annual plenary assessment meeting. The meeting, which was held at the Universal Hall of the FAR, examined the work conducted by that organization during 1987.

[Begin Rodriguez recording] Today we meet, as pointed out by Comrade Malmierca, in an atmosphere of triumph. Not because we are triumph seekers, not because we do not know our faults, not because we do not know our imperfections, but because we have the right to rejoice after having defeated once more before the world American imperialism, after this contemporary Giron, this victory obtained in circumstances, in which the difference between our small country and the powerful neighboring nation are greater than those between the small David and the gigantic Goliath. Our victory at the UN Human Rights Commission in Geneva is not Minrex's victory alone but it is also a victory of the Minrex [as heard]. [applause] [end recording]

Carlos Rafael also referred to the work carried out by officials, specialists, and support personnel when certificates were presented to the valuable comrades in recognition of their years of service in the Minrex. Luis Orlando Rodriguez was among them.

During the plenary, Foreign Minister Isidoro Malmierca made a general assessment of the work accomplished by the organization. Although he termed it good, he said it could be better. During 1987 our country had a good showing at international organizations such as the United Nations, UNESCO, and FAO, as well as in the Nonaligned Movement.

PRC Sports Minister Arrives; To Sign Protocol

FL290055 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 1933 GMT 28 Mar 88

[Text] Xu Yinsheng, minister of sports of the PRC [title as heard], has arrived in our capital to sign a sports exchange protocol with Cuba for the current year. It is expected that the agreement will include the exchange of teams from different athletic disciplines.

Special Palestine Solidarity Group Formed

FL300329 Havana Television Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 30 Mar 88

[Text] A special work group of the Cuban-Arab Friendship Association was formed today in this capital. The purpose of the group is to promote in a more effective manner solidarity in the struggle of the Palestinian people.

Among the activities that the group has planned are conferring the name of Palestine to a room in the Miguel Enriquez Hospital in this capital, presenting exhibits, and conducting solidarity events with the just Palestinian cause.

Luis Mendez Morejon, vice president of the Cuban-Arab Friendship Association and president of the group, read a statement condemning the brutal repression of the Israeli occupation in the Gaza and West Bank territories.

[Begin Mendez recording] We urge the international community to undertake a gigantic movement of solidarity with the Palestinian people capable of paralyzing the murderous hand of Zionists. All Cubans join the Palestinian people in that large battle which is writing one of the most heroic passages in the history of humankind. [end recording]

University Management Study Center Established

FL311659 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1355 GMT 31 Mar 88

[Text] A center for the study of management techniques has been established at the University of Havana in the presence of Division General Senen Casas Regueiro, alternate member of the PCC Politburo and chairman of the committee working with cadres. The education and advanced training of leadership cadres, the critical and rational study of international expertise in economic management, and research in this area will be among the objectives and tasks of [words indistinct] study of management techniques.

Land Cleared for Nuclear Research Center

FL291453 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 29 Mar 88

[Text] A 20-hour competition among bulldozer operators has signaled the beginning of the clearing-up work in the area where the nuclear research center is to be built. More than 380,000 square meters were cleared this weekend.

The nuclear research center will be equipped with a 10-megawatt atomic research reactor, a scale model to study the characteristics of the core of reactors of the (BER) type, laboratories to research the physics of neutrons, produce radioisotopes and [word indistinct] compounds, and study radiation protection, and other varied facilities, all required in scientific research and the training of specialists.

Drought in Pinar del Rio; Emergency Measures

FL301444 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 1402 GMT 30 Mar 88

[Text] Emergency measures have been put into effect to makeup for the losses caused by the drought in Pinar del Rio Province. These include turning on the irrigation equipment full power and speeding up production of

native fodder. The lack of water has caused declines in meat and milk production since January, because food reserves have become gradually exhausted. This has also affected the health of the cows.

Cattle are being stabled in collection centers that have been fitted out in the sugar mills to make the best use of sugarcane residues.

Despite the obstacles, the agricultural-livestock workers of Pinar del Rio are still keeping their pledge to produce more than 49 million liters of milk and 25,000 tons of beef, higher figures than last year.

Operation for Parkinson's Disease Performed

FL281310 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1300 GMT 26 Mar 88

[Text] The fourth brain cell transplant performed in Cuba for the surgical treatment of Parkinson's disease was performed yesterday at the Neurosurgery Institute in Havana on 48-year-old Eduardo Fuentes Quintana. The patient had been suffering from Parkinson's disease for the past 12 years and the illness had gradually limited his movements.

The multidisciplinary collective was headed by Dr Hilda Molina, initiator of the technique in our country. The surgery lasted 2 hours and 50 minutes during which no complications arose. According to the latest reports, Fuentes Quintana is recovering satisfactorily.

Haiti

French Mission Holds News Conference, Departs

FL312250 Port-au-Prince Radio Nationale in Creole 1400 GMT 31 Mar 88

[Text] The mission, having as its purpose concerted action, called the (Guilloux) mission [words indistinct], which has been in Haiti since Monday, left for France yesterday morning, after holding a news conference in the diplomatic waiting room at Mais Gate International Airport to inform the public about the results of its short visit to our country.

The mission's objective was to evaluate French-Haitian cooperation, to see what means are available to respond to Haiti's current problems, and to lay the foundations for cooperation in the coming years.

French-Haitian cooperation took a different path in 1986 after a visit to Haiti by French Cooperation Minister Michel Aurillac, recalled Mr (Guilloux) at the beginning of his news conference. According to (Guilloux), head of the mission, the slowdown in French aid to Haiti was due merely to the recent events because the climate in the country did not allow cooperation. Therefore, the situation had to be evaluated before they could consider resuming aid to the Haitian Government back then.

This mission had already signed seven financing agreements last Friday [as heard].

Mr (Guilloux) said his talks with the Haitian president, the prime minister, and the ministers involved in cooperation had been fruitful. He added that the most important (?aspect) of the mission was the analysis of a number of necessary emergency measures.

Three essential points constituted the basis for the talks. First, public works, which includes repairing roads and bridges and building some additional roads in the provinces. Second, aid in the form of foodstuffs, through which 4,000 tons of wheat will be furnished over the next 2 months. Finally, an educational aspect, whereby school supplies will be furnished to help poor children enter school in October.

This emergency program will cost France some 8 million francs, in addition to the value of the (?4,000) tons of wheat.

As regards the field of health, Mr (Guilloux) said French-Haitian cooperation is intended to have good results.

This is what Mr (Guilloux) said at this news conference.

Two other French missions are scheduled to come to Haiti, in June and September. Meanwhile, French-Haitian cooperation looks very promising.

That is what we, too, hope. We hope that these relations will allow the two countries to become better friends.

Further on Mission's Visit

FL312318 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1700 GMT 31 Mar 88

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] French emergency aid to Haiti, amounting to 6 million francs—that is, $1 million—will be used in three spheres. [passage omitted]

Among the projects to benefit from the resumption of French cooperation are the creation of two technical schools in Port-au-Prince and Cap Haitien, and for an agricultural project in the Arcahaie plain, in which France will participate.

France is also to finance, to the tune of some $12 million, the first part of the modernization of Port-au-Prince's drinking water distribution network. The total modernization cost is estimated at $50 million, $30 million of which will come from the World Bank. This project has already benefited from a $10 million loan from the CCCE [Certified Consumer Credit Executive], which is also planning, along with the World Bank, to help build new inexpensive marketplaces in Port-au-Prince, at Croix-des-Bossales.

Port-au-Prince and Paris signed last Friday seven financing agreements totalling $2.36 million, to finance projects in the areas of health, agriculture, telecommunications, and culture.

A new French cooperation mission is expected to visit Port-au-Prince next June. The joint French-Haitian cooperation committee will meet in Port-au-Prince in September.

Group of Peasants Released; Incident Explained

FL312300 Port-au-Prince Radio Nationale in Creole 1400 GMT 31 Mar 88

[Report from Port-de-Paix correspondent (Theodore Megalos Axius)]

[Excerpt] The Port-de-Paix Police released some 40 peasants at around 0900 on Wednesday, 30 March.

These peasants had assembled on Tuesday, 29 March, at Habitation (Brunel) in Mahotieres, seventh communal section of Port-de-Paix. The peasants said they had gathered to reflect upon the Constitution.

The head of the rural police, who says the meeting was held without his knowledge, had obtained a warrant for the arrest of the group leaders.

At the Casernes Capois La Mort in Port-de-Paix, one of the officers who had looked into this matter explained to us that the section chief had not arrested all the peasants. He said the peasants themselves had asked, out of solidarity, to be allowed to accompany their group leaders.

The section chief also gave to understand that he took the measure in question because he was concerned that another incident like the Jean-Rabel incident might occur.

After a dialogue with the soldiers at the Casernes, the peasants were allowed to return home. But they were mad, because the head of the rural police, whom they themselves had chosen, had made them walk all night. They arrived at the Casernes at around midnight. [passage omitted]

El Salvador

Duarte, PDC, U.S. 'Big Losers' in Elections

PA312319 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 0000 GMT 31 Mar 88

[Communique issued by the FMLN General Command—date, place not given]

[Text] 1. The FMLN General Command reports the following to the Salvadoran people and the international community:

The results of the latest elections are a failure of the low-intensity counterinsurgency plan promoted by the U.S. Administration in our country. This plan is suffering a breakdown and irreversible crisis with the uncontrolled advance of the Salvadoran revolutionary process. Those elections took place within the framework of a great buildup of the peoples' struggle in all areas, contrasting with the people's lack of trust and poor turnout in the elections.

2. Despite the government and the High Command's military plans, such as the "Liberty," "Suffrage," "Under Way," and ("Maquilijuas") operations, and despite using 95 percent of their Armed Forces to try to guarantee the farce in all the country's municipalities, they had to admit that this farce was not possible in 28 municipalities due to FMLN actions. The people carried out an important political and military struggle, clearly rejecting the [words indistinct]. There were strikes by the labor and teachers' movements, an effective transport stoppage, and sabotage of the electrical system all over the country, including the main cities and San Salvador. All this was accompanied by the highest level of absenteeism in the last decades. Contrary to what the Reagan administration tried, the people with their action [words indistinct] and unmasked this pressure.

3. The considerable absenteeism after so many years of war expresses a political position condemning the ruling regime and the counterinsurgency plan. This absenteeism says the people believe that under the current war situation, elections cannot solve anything in their favor. At the same time, this absenteeism expresses total mistrust of this political procedure. Absenteeism has been expressed in many ways. If one studies the information supplied by the Central Electoral Council, one deduces the following:

A. Out of a total of 2.6 million eligible voters, only 1.9 million registered to vote. This is a form of absenteeism by more than 500,000 people.

B. There was more than 40-percent absenteeism by those registered to vote. The official figures saying absenteeism was 30 percent are totally false and reflect the willingness of the Christian Democratic Party [PDC] and ARENA [Nationalist Republican Alliance] to change figures to cover up this fact. This would mean an absenteeism of approximately 70 percent of eligible voters, a much higher percentage of absenteeism than in the 1985 elections, which was, according to the Central Electoral Council, 58 percent.

C. To this we must add a great number of voters who invalidated their ballot or simply left it blank, thereby expressing their rejection. This figure of blank or invalid ballots will be reduced by the Central Electoral Council count, which traditionally uses those invalid votes to alter the results, as they did this time using the ARENA and PDC dispute. We should take note that according to reports by [Communications Minister] Roberto Edmundo Viera, there were 20,000 invalid ballots in San Salvador alone.

4. In this context of rejection and absenteeism, what they call an ARENA win, with a vote count similar to that of 1984, does not represent an increase in ARENA's social base but a loss in the PDC base. The slight increase ARENA might have gained comes from PDC and PCN [National Conciliation Party] conservative and right-wing members, who, faced with the crumbling of their parties, joined ARENA. Members of other parties voted for ARENA in (Guazan) to reject Duarte and the PDC.

ARENA continues to be an antipopular, oligarchic, and fascist party, despite its candidates' deceitful speeches in these elections. If ARENA achieves a so-called triumph, the already sharp rift between the people will widen and will worsen the contradictions between the ruling classes, the Armed Forces, and Yankee imperialism.

5. The elections they tried to strengthen and save, as well as the already worn-out counterinsurgency plan, bring the government to a more precarious situation. The regime even describes itself as a centrist government harassed by extremists. The big losers have been Duarte, the PDC, and most of all the U.S. Administration. These three are losing the political interest that had been gaining them support in the U.S. Congress and in other countries in their quest for war against the people, and they have cast aside the mask of democracy with which they tried to generate expectation among the peoples' sectors. The people are the great winner. After struggling all these years and during the elections, the people reaffirmed their direction and will to struggle to build an independent fatherland with justice and freedom.

6. These elections revealed the existence of two power bases in our country, as well as the strengthening and the extension of the peoples' revolutionary power. The political and military display of power throughout the country by the peoples' forces in the country's vital areas and the guerrilla zones, as well as the rejection of and massive absenteeism in the elections, confirm that there are two real powers, that the masses have taken a turn toward the revolutionary and patriotic positions, that the crisis will worsen, and that it is irreversible. Consequently, the only viable alternative solution to this is the establishment of a government of broad participation

that really wants to provide bread, peace, justice, freedom, and self-determination for our people. A government of broad participation can only be achieved by increasing the revolutionary struggle, widening the masses' revolutionary action, increasing militia actions and clandestine guerrilla groups, and increasingly promoting the unity of the democratic, patriotic, and peoples' forces that really want a fair solution with sovereignty.

United to fight until the final victory. Revolution or death, we will win.

FMLN General Command.

Nicaragua

Ortega on U.S. Relations, Contra Aid Vote

PA312238 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 2023 GMT 31 Mar 88

[News conference held by President Daniel Ortega with unidentified reporters at the Augusto Cesar Sandino International Airport in Managua on 31 March—recorded]

[Text] [Reporter] Does the approval by the U.S. Congress of humanitarian aid for the counterrevolution benefit or hinder the Sapoa agreements for a permanent cease-fire?

[Ortega] What I hope is that the U.S. Congress sends President Reagan [words indistinct] to immediately seek [words indistinct] with Nicaragua. In other words, the next step must be a direct dialogue between the United States and Nicaragua to normalize relations between the two countries. As long as this problem exists, Congress can very well approve another aid package if President Reagan is interested in it, as it did today with the humanitarian aid package.

The problem therefore has not been resolved, despite the fact that the package approved today is more or less favorable to the peace process. The problem will be resolved when the United States abides by the International Court of Justice ruling, when it stops all types of interference and aggression against Nicaragua, and when it agrees to establish a direct dialogue with Nicaragua to normalize relations between the two countries. As long as we do not normalize our relations, the problem remains unchanged. Today Congress approved this aid package; tomorrow Reagan can insist on new military aid, because that option has not yet been ruled out. That threat will always be present, despite our efforts for peace and although we succeeded in getting some U.S. congressmen interested in the peace process through the efforts of House Speaker Jim Wright.

In any case, this package must be used in such a way that it contributes to the peace process. The problem remains unresolved, however, because as long as the United States maintains its policy of aggression against Nicaragua, as long as the U.S. Administration does not normalize its relations with Nicaragua, and as long as it insists on determining our policy, the problem will not be resolved.

[Reporter] [Words indistinct] the U.S. intention to interfere in the peace process would be eliminated, if the 6 April talks with the contra leaders in Managua lead to some progress?

[Ortega] I believe the United States must respect the talks, although these talks obviously weaken Reagan's policy. But as long as the U.S. Administration continues to believe in its actions and in its decision to destroy the Nicaraguan revolution, and as long as it does not normalize relations with Nicaragua and does not agree to a direct, bilateral dialogue with Nicaragua to resolve the problem, the U.S. Administration could resort to creating tension in the border areas. In other words, the United States would be unable to resort to the contra pretext, because the contra movement is part of an agreement that is already under way, but it can resort to creating tension along the border and to inventing Nicaraguan invasions of Honduras and even of Costa Rica. The U.S. Administration can use those means to increase military actions against our country. That danger remains unchanged.

[Reporter] It had been said in Nicaragua that the U.S. aid to the contras would be channeled through a neutral organization. Apparently, it has been decided that AID will channel the aid. Is AID a very neutral organization, so to speak?

[Ortega] We are discussing that detail, because apparently AID is the treasurer, not the one who will directly deliver the funds. Apparently the delivery will be decided by the OAS secretary general. He is in charge of—let us say—implementing part of the agreements.

All issues dealing with humanitarian aid to the contras—in other words, food, medicine, and clothing—must be agreed on [words indistinct]. We did not understand that AID would directly deliver the aid, because if that is the case it would be a violation of the spirit of Esquipulas II.

[Reporter] [Words indistinct] a letter to President Azcona 2 or 3 days ago, I do not remember very well. What is the purpose of that letter?

[Ortega] I sent a letter to President Azcona so we can work seriously to avoid the invention of harassment operations in the border areas and the creation of tension along the Honduran-Nicaraguan border, which could end with an intervention of U.S. troops and a war of great consequences. That is why I sent the letter to President Azcona. I made very specific proposals in that letter. We will release those proposals in due time.

[Reporter] Have you received an answer yet?

[Ortega] No, not yet. President Azcona is not in Tegucigalpa. He is on vacation outside Tegucigalpa. He should be receiving the letter now, or perhaps he received it already. I am waiting for his answer.

[Reporter] The second round of the direct dialogue between you and the rebels will begin on 5 [as heard] April. What are the prospects for it in view of the recent events?

[Ortega] An agreement was signed in Sapoa, and we will struggle so this agreement will be fulfilled. We therefore hope to achieve substantial progress in this meeting on 6 April. There is no deadline for that meeting, so we hope to meet until we reach a permanent, total cease-fire agreement. In other words, we hope to reach a cease-fire that will involve disarmament—that is, the contras turning over their weapons to an international organization, which will have to be decided—and that will involve the contras' participation in the nation's political life.

[Reporter] How do you view the differences that have emerged among the counterrevolutionary leadership and the representatives of the various groups with regard to the talks and agreements with the government [words indistinct]?

[Ortega] There is already a commitment on the part of the contra directorate. We have to defend that commitment. It cannot be destroyed by those who oppose the agreements. Who is against the agreements? The Reagan administration is against the agreements. That is clear. It exerts very strong pressure. What we would call the counterrevolution's bureaucracy is also against the agreements. They are those who have offices in Honduras, Costa Rica, Miami, and other places. They receive a salary. Their living comes from being bureaucrats of the counterrevolutionary activity. They are naturally upset about the agreements, because this means they will have to look for a job [words indistinct]. Some groups of exiles in the United States, especially in Miami, are also against the agreements. This is because when these agreements are reached and fulfilled and when the amnesty process is carried out, they will be left without (?cover) in the United States. Those people are now considered political refugees, but once there is a peace process, the United States will probably tell them to return to their country because there would be no reason for them to stay in the United States. Those people also do not want the peace agreements for this reason. Some [contra] military commanders might not be interested in the peace agreements because they are making money, and they would like to see that continue. We are sure the contra rank and file do want peace, however. These are peasants who have become involved in the counterrevolutionary activities, people who are the ones dying, and people who [words indistinct]. I think those people want the fulfillment of the agreements.

To subordinate the country's interests [words indistinct], to subordinate it to the interests of [words indistinct] the United States, that is [words indistinct] in Nicaragua's domestic life. In other words, there is no reason why the United States should be telling [words indistinct] and what we should not do. (?We) are not telling the United States what it should or should not do [words indistinct] relations between states. Yes, we have to talk and hold discussions.

[Reporter] Are there reports of truce violations?

[Ortega] There are a number of truce violations by the contras, but they are what we could describe as minor violations. It is normal for these types of violations to occur in a truce or cease-fire process. There are people who do not accept the agreements and (?violate) the cease-fire. There are other people who [words indistinct] also violate the cease-fire. These types of incidents always occur in a cease-fire process. What we have done is to (?document) our charges with witnesses [words indistinct] the last meeting in Sapoa. We are [words indistinct] for the next meeting, which will be held in Managua.

Government Withdraws Honduran Charges at ICJ

PA010226 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 0052 GMT 1 Apr 88

[Communique issued by the Foreign Ministry in Managua on 31 March]

[Text] The Foreign Ministry wishes to report the following:

1. In view of the mid-March border incidents in Bocay, which were a result of Honduran noncompliance with its commitment to prevent use of its territory by mercenary forces to attack Nicaragua, the Nicaraguan Government decided to allow the Esquipulas agreements' Executive Commission, made up of the Central American foreign ministers, to visit the scene of the incidents and to make the necessary recommendations to avoid a recurrence of similar problems in the future.

2. The Honduran Government refused to participate in the emergency meeting called by the Executive Commission and refused to allow on-site verification. This closed the only way of verification remaining after 16 January 1988, when the Honduran Government, among others, and against Nicaragua's wishes, decided to disband the International Verification and Follow-Up Commission.

3. At the time of the Bocay border incidents, Honduras refused to resort to established mechanisms and instead allowed the deployment of 3,200 U.S. soldiers sent to Honduras to strengthen or protect the mercenary forces. The Reagan administration, seeing the desperate plight of the mercenary forces, even threatened to take measures against Nicaragua.

4. In view of the seriousness of the situation, the Nicaraguan Government, always seeking peaceful means for resolving conflicts threatening peace, was forced to bring to the International Court of Justice [ICJ] on 21 March a request for temporary safeguards within the framework of legal proceedings started against Honduras on 28 July 1986.

5. In his 28 March letter to Honduran President Jose Azcona Hoyo, President Daniel Ortega, showing once again good faith and flexibility for the sake of Central American harmony and mutual trust, informed him of Nicaragua's decision to withdraw its request for temporary safeguards, provided the 3,200 U.S. soldiers left Honduran territory.

6. In view of the Honduran Government's assurances that the U.S. troops would end their total withdrawal from Honduran territory on 1 April at the latest, the Nicaraguan Government decided to give instructions on 30 March to its representative at the ICJ to withdraw the request for temporary safeguards.

7. Nicaragua's request reaffirms its confidence in the present peace process and its will to continue to contribute to the culmination of that process.

Managua, 31 March 1988

Calero Does Not Trust Government To Keep Word

PA311742 Managua Radio Corporacion in Spanish 0400 GMT 30 Mar 88

[Report on statement by Nicaraguan Resistance, RN, leader Adolfo Calero; date, place not given—passages within quotation marks recorded]

[Text] [Calero] "The signing of this agreement has unleashed much criticism and concern, and many questions have been asked. These questions are not only being asked by well-meaning people who care for us, but also by ill-intentioned people who, no matter what we may do, will always be against us.

"First, we must clearly establish that in Sapoa we signed a truce; we signed an agreement to cease offensive military operations. That is all we have promised to do. A definite cease-fire will have to be negotiated."

Regarding talks to determine the special areas where the rebel forces will settle, Adolfo Calero said:

[Calero, in progress] "...to determine areas where our men will settle should a definite cease-fire be agreed upon. The size of the area would be approximately the size of the Republic of El Salvador. Our men will not be imprisoned in the mountains. The area where our men will be located will be the size of the Republic of El Salvador. Air and land corridors must be opened to supply these areas.

"Furthermore, signing a definite cease-fire agreement does not mean that we are going to lay down our weapons. In order for us to do this, the Sandinists must, simultaneously, allow the democratization of Nicaragua. We don't want promises; we want an effective democratization based on facts that can be proven.

"We don't trust the Sandinists or communists. We don't think that they have any intention of keeping their word. They never have. As we have done for the past few years, we shall continue to prove that the Sandinists are communists and that they have no democratic intentions. The only way of doing this is to test them as we have been doing."

Borge Comments on Opposition, Peace Process

PM311517 Oslo ARBEIDERBLADET in Norwegian 24 Mar 88 p 16

[Report on interview with Interior Minister Tomas Borge by Stig Nilsen in Managua; date not given: "Nicaragua's Interior Minister: 'We Are the Fruit of History'"]

[Text] Managua—Nicaraguan Interior Minister Tomas Borge has called on the Nordic countries to become more actively involved in the peace process in Central America.

As the only survivor of the founders of the Sandinist Front, Interior Minister Tomas Borge is an important figure among the Sandinist leaders. We met the busy man in his ministry in Managua.

One of Borge's areas of responsibility is the whole question of the situation of the Indian minorities on the Atlantic coast. There the peace process has made great progress, and Nicaragua has recently proposed a commission of inspection for the area involving the Nordic countries.

"In Denmark, Norway, and Sweden I have found great interest in the problems on the Atlantic coast. The Nordic countries could make a contribution to ensuring a democratic process in Nicaragua and the whole of Central America by checking that the Esquipulas peace agreement of August 1987 is being observed. In particular, they should support our endeavors on the Atlantic coast," Tomas Borge said, referring to the new local autonomy legislation.

We asked Tomas Borge about his view of the opposition parties. He replied:

"In Europe there are discussions between the major political parties, with serious political programs about which people can make up their minds. In Nicaragua conditions are different. Here there is one enormous party—the Sandinist Front, the FSLN—which is the fruit of a historical process. In addition there are a number of parties whose programs are backward, pro-American, and primitive. We offer the future, they offer the past.

"I also view it as a problem that the FSLN does not meet with any real political competition from which we could derive inspiration. It is worrying, because political pluralism is an important part of our program. We do not want to be the only party, but one party competing for power with other parties. Relative strengths can only change if the opposition modernizes itself by abandoning its patchwork politics and becoming civilized."

Tomas Borge also considers this weakness to be the reason why several parties withdrew from the 1984 elections: "They could foresee the result."

"Our society has become polarized. The CIA, as the tool of the U.S. Government, has weakened our economy. The expectations the people have had of social improvements have been dealt a serious blow. We have had to use enormous resources on the defense of Nicaragua. This has led to polarization. But nevertheless there is no doubt that the majority of the population supports the revolution."

"But perhaps the reason for the absence of unrest and rebellion in the country is that the Sandinist dictatorship is so tough that the population shakes in fear of the Sandinist police?" Tomas Borge asked with scarcely concealed irony, and answered himself:

"Be very clear that the Sandinist police have never fired a single shot at or used tear gas or water cannons against a demonstration, as in Europe and elsewhere in the world. So it cannot be because people are frightened of the police."

Borge, who himself is responsible for the police, continued his question: "Are the people not then frightened of the Army?—No, the Army is made up of the people themselves and people cannot be afraid of themselves. It is the people who are armed, so it is the people who decide, in the final analysis. What would happen in other Latin American countries if they armed the people as we have done?"

[Nilsen] Do you not think that it was a mistake to introduce censorship a few years ago?

[Borge] Our country was and is at war. It does not matter which country it is; it has to implement special measures when there is a war. In this war there have been tens of thousands of deaths. That is why it is logical that in such a violent and gruesome war a state of emergency—and this includes censorship—is introduced. And why have we ended censorship while the war is still going on? Because the Esquipulas agreement has put us in a new situation. At one moment the state of emergency is a shield for the defense of Nicaragua, at the next it is an obstacle to the end of the war because of Esquipulas.

The opposition is now trying through its actions to force us to reintroduce the state of emergency, so it will be able to say that there is no democracy in Nicaragua.

Europe should support our endeavors toward democracy stemming from our special conditions, which are different from Europe's. But it is not the Europeans who will build democracy in Latin America, Central America, and Nicaragua—it is us!

[Nilsen] Is it at all possible to believe in a peace agreement that does not have the approval of the United States?

[Borge] The United States no longer has the same opportunities it once had to determine developments in Central America. Otherwise the Esquipulas agreement would not have been possible. The Contadora group of states and the Support Group would not have existed, nor would our recent agreement with the Miskito Indians. Everything has happened despite the United States.

Something that it is important for us to understand is that the United States does not understand us. We have said to the United States many times that we are no danger to the internal security of the United States, but they say the whole time: Yes, you are. Their fears are not well founded, but understandable. For children are afraid of ghosts. The U.S. view of the world and of international relations is really backward. They live in an artificial world and believe their own lies; and even though these things change a little every day, they still live in a world of ghosts. But I hope that, despite our differences, it will be possible to achieve acceptable relations—perhaps with a new U.S. president.

Panama

FDP To Act 'Only' Against U.S. Use of 'Force'

PA010007 Panama City Telemetro Television in Spanish 2320 GMT 31 Mar 88

[Text] A note sent by Manuel Solis Palma, minister in charge of the Presidency, to UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar states that the Panama Defense Forces [FDP] have been ordered to refrain at all times from using lethal or destructive weapons against U.S. Armed Forces members, against U.S. civilians, or against installations or property owned by U.S. citizens or by the U.S. Government.

Only in the case of legitimate defense and after an unmistakable act of the use of military force against the Republic of Panama or against the FDP will the latter receive orders to engage in combat. This is in permanent and strict observance of the stipulations of the Geneva Convention, the note sent by Solis Palma adds.

If the U.S. Government were to order a military action against Panama, it would have to answer to the world and to the U.S. people for starting an unjustifiable military conflict, the note states.

The note sent by the minister in charge of the Presidency to the UN secretary general says that despite the situation created by the mobilization of U.S. Armed Forces on Panama's territory, in its territorial waters, and in its sovereign airspace without the authorization of the Panamanian Government and in violation of the Panama Canal treaties and of the 1977 treaty on the canal's permanent neutrality and operation, the FDP has been ordered to refrain from using lethal weapons.

Solis Palma describes the U.S. President's statement that the United States does not intend to use military force against the Republic of Panama as an expression of good sense and prudence. Solis Palma has made this known to Javier Perez de Cuellar and all chiefs of UN missions.

Noriega Honors Troops Loyal During 16 Mar Events

PA311400 Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish 0015 GMT 31 Mar 88

[Text] This morning the Panama Defense Forces [FDP] General Command decorated and handed out merit certificates to the Urraca 4th Infantry Company for their outstanding action in defending the commander in chief during the events of 16 March. The Urraca Company was decorated for its outstanding participation and for its responsibility, loyalty, and bravery, which went beyond their call of duty in accomplishing their mission.

The decoration was handed out by FDP chief General Manuel Antonio Noriega himself. General Staff Chief Colonel Marcos Justines handed a merit certificate to Urraca Company Chief Major Moises Giroldi immediately afterward.

The event, in which members of the General Staff and midlevel commanders took part, also included the promotion of Urraca Company Lieutenant Edgardo Sandoval to the rank of captain.

The Urraca 4th Infantry Company prevented the military coup that the country [as heard] tried to stage against Gen Noriega on 16 March.

FUP Invites Solis, Others to 4 Apr Dialogue

PA311530 Panama City MATUTINO in Spanish 31 Mar 88 p 3

[Text] Leaders of the Peoples Unity Front [FUP] have delivered an invitation to President Solis Palma to send government representatives to a national dialogue to be held beginning at 1000 on Monday, 4 April, at the Atlapa Convention Center.

Upon delivering the invitation, FUP leader Hector Aleman said that this is the national dialogue to which the chief executive referred in his last speech and which is being requested by the Panamanian people as a formula to resolve the country's political troubles.

"We are visiting all of the country's political sectors and saying to each one of them that we Panamanians must sit down and discuss among ourselves the options we have to find a solution to the crisis before it becomes impossible to find a negotiated solution and other methods arise that might bring sorrow to Panamanian families," Aleman said.

All political parties, including the opposition and government parties, the Civic Crusade, the church, the Panama Defense Forces, and FUP member organizations, have been invited to participate in this dialogue.

Human Rights Group Protests Opposition Arrests

PA310445 Paris AFP in Spanish 1925 GMT 30 Mar 88

[Excerpts] Panama City, 30 Mar (AFP)—Today the Panamanian Human Rights Committee asked Amnesty International to intercede to stop "the savage acts of violence" committed in the last few days against 47 members of the opposition Civic Crusade and approximately 12 foreign newsmen. [passage omitted]

The note sent to Amnesty International says opposition leader Carlos Gonzalez de la Lastra is still under indefinite arrest and was tortured, as was opposition leader Osvaldo Guillen, whose physical condition was described as "critical." [passage omitted]

Osvaldo Velasquez, president of the Panamanian Human Rights Committee, asked Amnesty International to intercede in the case "to free the detainees and protect their physical safety." [passage omitted]

Columnist: McGrath 'Just Another Ugly American'

PA312015 Panama City CRITICA in Spanish 30 Mar 88 p 4

[From the "Political Coliseum" column by Baltazar Renan Aizpurua: "Pro-U.S. McGrath Cannot Be Mediator"]

[Excerpts] We referred to Panama's Archbishop Msgr Marcos Gregorio McGrath as Marcus Gregorius McGrath once before in this column because, in body and soul, he is precisely that: a man with an English name who has nothing Panamanian in him. From head to toe he is just another ugly American; therefore, he cannot be a mediator in the problem between the Panamanian people and Ronald Reagan's administration. [passage omitted]

I have referred to McGrath's behavior on several occasions and have put in doubt his priestly nature as far as justice is concerned. We have even asked him questions in public, and many were never answered because McGrath has no answers to give to the people. He simply does not care about those who have nothing.

Having defined Msgr McGrath's proimperialist and prooligarchic nature, and having identified him as an element that can be used by the enemies of the homeland [to attack] its dignity and its national sovereignty, we can't imagine him, who is judge and jury, even participating in a dialogue, much less as a negotiator. [passage omitted]

We can excuse the Spanish and Central American leaders who probably do not know who McGrath is, but we have to insist that Msgr McGrath not be accepted as a mediator because this would mean inviting a thief to our table. This has happened in the past.

However, the one person we cannot accept recommendations from is that demagogue known as Carlos Andres Perez who, because of his desire to become president of Venezuela once more, has sided with Washington in stating that Noriega must leave Panama. We remind that fake Bolivarian that Noriega is not another Perez Jimenez. [passage omitted]

Attacks on U.S. Embassy, Bank in Bogota Viewed

PA311635 Panama City CRITICA in Spanish 31 Mar 88 p 4

[Editorial: "The World With Panama"]

[Text] Although the first conference of Central American and Caribbean parties and movements, which just ended its sessions in our capital, was attended by representatives of a majority of movements that are not in power and a few ruling parties, the SELA message is an open telegram sent by the governments of 23 Indo-Hispanic American countries to Ronald Reagan's Anglo-Saxon United States and to the hawks who are enemies of Panamanian independence and decorum. This message is underscored by the two armed actions staged by the M-19 Movement and the National Liberation Army, irregular organizations engaged in clandestine guerrilla warfare, which attacked the U.S. Embassy in Bogota and an important bank in Colombia without any request or proposal of assistance from the national constitutional government headed by His Excellency Manuel Solis Palma.

All of the foregoing proves that the United States should seriously weigh its next steps at this nerve center on our continent.

Panama has never incited anyone to take action against the U.S. people or their property abroad, but it seems to us that we cannot prevent a number of movements from making emphatic protests against the disastrous diplomatic, financial, political, economic, and propagandistic coercion that is practiced by that northern nation. A number of unsolicited actions have taken place in the pro-Panamanian struggle. The United States should remove armed invasion or any type of military aggression from its special agenda for Panama, because the results would be violent and uncontrollable and will make the Yankee leaders regret having traded a judge's robe for the mercenary aggressor's blanket.

Argentina

Cooperation Agreement Signed With Mozambique

PY311841 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish
0155 GMT 31 Mar 88

[Text] Buenos Aires, 30 Mar (TELAM)—Today Argentina and Mozambique agreed on the creation of a joint commission that will implement economic, technical, scientific, and cultural cooperation between the two countries.

The agreement was signed this afternoon by President Raul Alfonsin and his Mozambican colleague, Joaquim Chissano, during a ceremony in the White Room of Government House. Foreign Minister Dante Caputo and Mozambican Foreign Minister Pascoal Mocumbi also participated in the ceremony.

After signing the document, Alfonsin and Chissano met in the former's office.

The agreement also takes into account the interest in strengthening the ties of friendship, solidarity, and cooperation between the peoples of the two countries, and it stresses the firm adherence of the two countries to the principles of the UN Charter.

It expresses the desire to promote, develop, and reinforce cooperation on the basis of the internationally recognized principles of equality, reciprocal benifits, mutual respect for territorial sovereignty and integrity, noninterference in internal affairs, and self-determination of the peoples to freely choose their political and social system and their development process.

The joint commission will have the mission of implementing and strengthening the agreement and any other that might be signed in the future.

During a news conference that he held later, Chissano stated that his Argentine visit has allowed him to confirm the interest existing in Buenos Aires to carry out business investments, which can now be implemented with the signing of the agreement.

After referring to Mozambique's support for Argentina in its claim over the Malvinas Islands, and after expressing his pleasure over our country's condemnation of apartheid, the visiting chief of state emphasized the possibility that Mozambican peasants could be trained in Argentine institutions, especilly the INTA [National Institute of Agricultural-Livestock Technology], and he revealed that next month some of his country's technicians will visit Argentina to organize joint enterprises.

Finally, in his dialogue with journalists at the Foreign Ministry, he stated that with regard to primary production, he has been informed that Argentine businessmen are interested in establishing subsidiaries in Mozambique.

Chile

OAS Envoy Rejects Bolivian Sea Outlet Claim

PY311654 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish
1030 GMT 31 Mar 88

[Text] Once again Chile has rejected Bolivia's claims for a sea outlet, voiced by Bolivia at a regular meeting of the OAS Permanent Council in Washington. Javier Illanes, Chile's permament representative to the OAS, answered a statement by Bolivian representative Armando Soriano Badani. Badani had brought up the argument of the Pacific War, and Illanes said the OAS, which is a forum for cooperation and understanding among American nations, is not the place for repetitive complaints about events that took place more than 100 years ago.

The Chilean diplomat also mentioned the 1904 treaty on borders, which the two countries signed freely and formally. According to that treaty, Bolivia has the broadest possible transit and trade facilities ever granted to a landlocked country, Illanes said.

Neighborhood Group To Support Yes Vote Created

PY311657 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish
1030 GMT 31 Mar 88

[Text] The Civic Self-Defense Neighborhood Movement [Movimiento Civico de Autodefensa Vecinal] has been created. The objective of this movement will be to struggle for the victory of the yes vote in the coming plebiscite. (Raul Arevalo), national secretary of the new movement, reported that the group has 400,000 members, adding that the decision to create the movement was made at the latest national meeting of neighborhood committees. (Arevalo) explained that the vast silent majority of the Chilean people do not want to belong to any political party.

He went on to explain that the movement will channel the people's efforts toward the preservation of the principles of the current government. He added that a national headquarters of the movement will be opened shortly and the interested people will be able to obtain their instructions there. (Arevalo) said that his movement belongs to the national civic organization presided over by Aquiles Petit.

Asked about the recent attack on a neighborhood leader, (Arevalo) stated that the people must learn to respect each other's ideas. He concluded by saying that several neighborhood leaders and their wives have been attacked by fanatics.

Opposition on Efforts To Monitor Plebiscite

PY311436 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish
1030 GMT 31 Mar 88

[Text] According to reliable sources, the opposition is investing approximately $100,000 to set up a highly sophisticated computer system to monitor the vote

count during the plebiscite. When the people involved in setting up this system were asked about the source of the money, they said that there are no problems because there is plenty of money.

It is worth recalling that recently the U.S. Congress doled out $600,000 to opposition parties and front organizations. Initially the amount to be distributed had been cited as being $1 million, but only $600,000 was received in the end.

Yesterday morning (Gonzalo Daniel Manherts), a Christian Democrat who is in charge of the computer and vote monitoring department of the Command for the No Vote, announced that two main computer systems will be installed to monitor the plebiscite. He added that one of these systems will be handled by the Association of Engineers, which is presided over by Eduardo Arriagada. The other system will be directly controlled by the Command for the No Vote. The data will be fed into the system through regional and municipal terminals.

Anticommunism Group Issues Death Threats
PY311359 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0150 GMT 31 Mar 88

[Text] Santiago, 30 Mar (EFE)—Approximately 200 leaders of union, student, and human rights-linked organizations in Chile have received death threats from the so-called Hussars of Death Nationalist Front [Frente Nacionalista Husares de la Muerte—FNHM]

According to the local press, the FNHM's note to the threatened people, all living in Valparaiso, Chile's main port, says the organization has declared war on communism under the following slogan: "The only good communist or terrorist is a dead one."

The ultra-right organization says it has the objective of "eradicating terrorism from our fatherland and exterminating all Marxist-Leninists." It also announces that it will apply the "law of retaliation" and that no "crime or attack will go unpunished. No Marxist will be able to live in peace or remain calm."

The note adds that the Marxists "can outwit the law and justice, but they will not escape from our long arm. All of them will inexorably pay their debts: ideologists and agitators, instigators and abettors."

Bomb Damages Railroad Near Army School
PY312059 Santiago Radio Chilena Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 31 Mar 88

[Report from mobile unit by Hugo Vergara]

[Text] A bomb that exploded today at 0600 at the Balmaceda level crossing slightly damaged two ties and a segment of the railroad track. This level crossing is located right across from the Army Infantry School in the San Bernardo district.

According to a police report, unidentified people planted a bomb containing at least 100 grams of AN-FO [ammonium nitrate-fuel oil blasting agent]. The blast caused a partial suspension of train services to southern Chile.

Two Arms Caches Discovered in Fifth Region
PY311655 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 1030 GMT 31 Mar 88

[Text] Two new arms caches were discovered recently in the fifth region. The arms had been hidden in two houses in Quilpue. According to the police, the caches contained 40 grenades, 30 kg of AN-FO [ammonium nitrate-fuel oil blasting agent], 2 Vietnamese bombs [not further identified], ammunition of various calibers, first-aid kits, and other subversive material, all of which has been taken to the Quilpue Carabineros station. No arrests have been reported.

Peru

Justice Minister Durant Dies of Heart Attack
PY010008 Buenos Aires DYN in Spanish 2358 GMT 31 Mar 88

[Text] Lima, 31 Mar (AFP)—Peruvian Justice Minister Gonzalo Durant Aspilla suddenly died of a heart attack today after attending a cabinet meeting. This was confirmed this afternoon by Industry and Commerce Minister Alberto Vera La Rosa.

Durant, who was 67 years old, died at 1740 local time (2240 GMT) at the Casimiro Ulloa Hospital, where he had been hospitalized.

Upon learning of Durant's death, President Alan Garcia suspended his activities and went to the hospital.

Rebels Kill Seven Policemen; Cause Blackout
PY310133 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1551 GMT 31 Mar 88

[Text] Lima, 31 Mar (EFE)—Today Jorge Fermi, manager of Entelperu [National Telecommunications Enterprise of Peru], reported that seven Republican Guards died yesterday in terrorist ambush, and not four as reported by the Interior Ministry.

Fermi said that the Entelperu truck in which the policemen were traveling was totally destroyed.

He added that six bodies were found near the site of the attack: two men, two women, and two children, a fact which he termed very unusual.

Fermi said the truck driver is missing, and his whereabouts is not known. He added that the attack was carried out with a powerful bomb activated from a distance.

This report differs from the one released yesterday, which stated that the Republican Guards died in an attack carried out by the Shining Path, during which a total of six people died.

The Shining Path attack took place near the hamlet of Pachamachay, Ambo Province, in northern Huanuco Department. The place is located some 60 km from the city of Huanuco, the department capital.

Shining Path also attacked the installations of the Sugar Cooperative "Andahuasi," in Huacho, Lima Department.

Some 50 Shining Path members entered the Cooperative building on Tuesday night, forced the manager of the enterprise to give them all the money from the safe, and then killed him.

The terrorists also set fire to seven vehicles of the cooperative and destroyed some of the installations.

Nearby, they murdered a gas station attendant who apparently refused to give them gasoline for their vehicles.

The Shining Path terrorists last night also destroyed two electricity towers in the Rio Mantaro Valley, central mountain region of Peru, where the Mantaro hydroelectric dam is located.

The destruction of these towers caused a blackout in seven departments of the country and in Lima, where two areas are still without electricity.

The Mantaro Valley is also experiencing a power shortage as a result of these attacks. The City of Huancayo, capital of Junin Department where the Mantaro Valley in located, was in darkness last night.

A number of bomb attacks took place after the blackout, but they caused little damage and no casualties.

The body of a person who had been shot to death was found later.

It is believed that the terrorists killed him to take his car and carry out these attacks in Huancayo.

Uruguay

Foreign Minister on Panama Situation

PY311514 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0244 GMT 31 Mar 88

[Text] Montevideo, 30 Mar (EFE)—Today Uruguayan Foreign Minister Luis Barrios Tassano stated that Panama will again become a member of the Group of Eight when democracy returns to that country.

Barrios, who today returned from Montreal, where the Group of Eight met with Canadian Government officials, stated that Panama "has not been kicked out; its membership has been suspended.

"The prerequisite that democracy return to Panama will be achieved in the very near future, and we will then have that country within the group again," he added.

The Group of Eight is made up of Argentina, Brazil, Colombia, Mexico, Panama, Peru, Uruguay, and Venezuela, countries that in turn make up the Contadora Group and the Contadora Support Group, which are seeking a negotiated solution to the Central American crisis.

Panama was "suspended" from the Group of Eight in February, when Eric Arturo Delvalle, the constitutional president, was sacked by the Panamanian Congress after firing General Manuel Antonio Noriega, the commander of the country's Defense Forces, who currently remains in his post.

President Sanguinetti Moscow News Conference

PA301337 Moscow in Spanish to Latin America 0000 GMT 28 Mar 88

[News conference held by President Julio Maria Sanguinetti during visit to the USSR; date and place not given—recorded]

[Text] [Sanguinetti] Panama's situation is different from Central America's situation since we could say it is a problem pertaining only to Panama. Naturally, as members of the Group of Eight, it concerns us. We are concerned over its power rivalry, its climate of peace, and all that affects these essential principles.

Panamanian democracy has had its ups and downs. It has lived through difficult times before. Naturally, the latest events worry us. We trust that a serene spirit prevails and that Panama may find a peaceful solution to its problems. What we do say is that the Panamanian solution must be Panamanian and should not be imposed upon or induced from outside.

[Reporter] Mr President, at this moment there is an added problem in Central America, namely, the presence of U.S. troops in Honduras. What is the Uruguayan position on the U.S. request for renewed contra aid?

[Sanguinetti] Uruguay has always opposed resumption of aid to the contras. We have said before and now reiterate: We oppose any act of intervention, meddling, or influence into any country or area. We say this in regard to the United States and in regard to any attempt like it by any other country. We feel the presence of U.S. troops in Honduras is a step in the wrong direction, because anything that contributes to tension is without doubt negative.

[Reporter] Mr President, how do you view the prospects on compliance with the UN General Assembly resolution proposing the creation of a peace and cooperation area in South America? Will the proposal of Uruguay, Brazil, and other countries of the region be approved?

[Sanguinetti] The South Atlantic is the basic concern of this resolution. It is an idea that has been promoted with great eagerness mainly by Brazil, and to which our country added its name. We have been trying for some time now to create a favorable atmosphere for this region, which until recently had been spared from the phenomena of violence and has tried to return to peace. Naturally, we have had certain problems recently because of a conflict known to all between the UK and Argentina. We hope for a peaceful solution.

We hope that this conflict—one we could describe as chronic—does not develop further, and that the installation of arms, which could promote further tension, stops. We are optimistic about doing this. Trying to prevent bases or systems, which could compromise future peace in our region, from being installed is an international action that started not too long ago and is more of a preventive measure.